

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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USEEC

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SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977:
FISHERY DISCUSSIONS

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF FISHERY ISSUES DURING THE
JULY 25-26 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WAS BRIEF. THE
COUNCIL EXTENDED EXISTING QUOTA AND LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR SPAIN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 AND RECEIVED A REPORT
FROM THE COMMISSION ON FISHING AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH SENEGAL, GUINEA BISSAU, AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS.
END SUMMARY.

2. SPAIN:

THE COUNCIL APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION
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THAT EXISTING QUOTA AND LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPANISH
FISHING IN EC WATERS BE EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30,
1977 (SPAIN WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALLOTTED 124 LICENSES
THROUGH THIS PERIOD). THE PROBLEM REMAINS THAT SPAIN
REFUSES TO LIFT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CANNED FISH
PRODUCTS, WHICH WERE IMPOSED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN A MOVE
VIEWED BY THE COMMUNITY AS DIRECT RETALIATORY ACTION

AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EC 200-MILE ZONE. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION FISHERY OFFICIAL (FARNELL), THE SPANISH ACTION PRIMARILY AFFECTED ITALIAN AND DANISH EXPORTS TO SPAIN, AND THOSE TWO STATES ARE ACCORDINGLY ANXIOUS FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, COMMUNITY OVERTURES TO THE SPANISH IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE GONE UNHEEDED. ACCORDING TO FARNELL, A COMPLICATING FACTOR INVOLVES A 1964 AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN, WHICH ALLOWS FREE ACCESS FOR SPANISH FISHERMEN TO A ZONE BETWEEN 6 AND 12 MILES OFF THE FRENCH COAST. FARNELL TOLD MISSION OFFICER THE FRENCH WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO USE COMMUNITY LICENSING AS GROUNDS FOR LIMITING SPANISH FISHING IN THOSE WATERS, WITHOUT ACTUALLY RENEGING UNILATERALLY ON THE 1964 AGREEMENT. FARNELL INDICATED THAT THE QUESTION IS STILL MOOT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT SPANISH VESSELS CAN LEGALLY BE SUBJECTED TO COMMUNITY LICENSING IN THAT ZONE. THE FRENCH HAVE, IN ANY CASE, TAKEN A HARD STAND AGAINST CONCESSIONS TO THE SPANISH AND HAVE SO FAR PREVAILED OVER THE MORE ACCOMMODATING ITALIAN/DANISH POSITION. FARNELL SAID THAT THE COMMISSION IS TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SPANISH IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, PREPARATORY TO A FRESH REVIEW OF THE DOSSIER BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER 20 COUNCIL MEETING.

3. WEST AFRICA:

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EC COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON (WHO HOLDS THE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO) REPORTED ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN WEST AFRICA WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF SENEGAL, GUINEA BISSAU, AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS CONCERNING NEGOTIATION OF FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC (CHEYSSON, WHO ALSO ENGAGED IN WIDER DEVELOPMENT TALKS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS, WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY COMMISSION FISHERY OFFICIAL MARCUSSEN). THE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK NOTE OF A COMMISSION REPORT ON PROSPECTS FOR ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAURITANIA. ITALY AND FRANCE HAVE THE HIGHEST STAKE IN SECURING COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS WITH THESE AFRICAN STATES; THE ITALIANS, IN PARTICULAR, ARE CONCERNED BY THE HIGH FISHING FEES NOW PAID THE GUINEA BISSAU GOVERNMENT. THE COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IN THE FALL FOR CONCLUDING THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HINTON

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